

Weekly Column for November 25, 2004

Today is Thanksgiving, and personally I have much to be thankful for.

I have been in this office for 11 months, and I have to say, I love this job. Sure, there are the stressful moments, but in the end it is all worth it. We hit the ground running in January and it was a success thanks to a special group of people- the City of Troy employees.

From the wonderful workers in the Department of Public Works to the dedicated Department of Public Utilities employees, those two groups of people are out day and night fixing any problem and keeping our streets clean.

Then there are the officers in the Police Department who strive to make our City safer every day. Often overlooked and sometimes criticized for accomplishing one of the toughest jobs in the world, the men and women of the Police Department put their lives on the line every day. They should be commended for a job well done.

The same can be said for the Troy Fire Department as well. Early on in my term I watched these people work in treacherous conditions attempting to put out a three-alarm fire in Lansingburgh. It was an amazing sight, and, like the members of the police department, firefighters should be thanked for constantly putting their lives on the line.

And finally, there are the workers in City Hall, whom I see on an everyday basis. From the first floor to the third, from the Finance Department to Code Enforcement, every person that works in City Hall today has the best interests of the people of Troy in mind, and work diligently to accomplish any and all work thrown in front of them. A big thank you goes out to them for making the transition into City Hall much easier.

If I can be thankful for one more thing, I would like to compliment the residents of Troy. Things are not always easy, but you are there through the good and bad. Each and every day I have someone walk up to me and compliment the good job we are doing. I try to tell them the workers in the City make it easy, and sometimes they listen. But regardless of who does the work, it is a wonderful feeling to hear good news like that. I will continue to work my hardest so that next Thanksgiving, we can all say that the City is in even better shape.

I know I said I was done, but permit to thank one more group of people. My wife, Francesca, and the rest of my family and close friends, who have given me more love and support in the past year than a man deserves- Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.